

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of allocating use of peripheral devices in a network system
2 comprised of:
3 identifying users in the network system to a central device;
4 providing peripheral device access limitations to the users by the central
5 device; and
6 informing the peripheral devices of the access allowed to users by the central
7 device.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 accounting peripheral device usage of the users by the central device.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the peripheral devices perform
2 document processing.

1 4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:
2 reading marks on documents processed by the peripheral devices; and
3 identifying by the marks the documents to the central device.

1 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:
2
3 relating the identified documents to users that request the identified
4 documents.

1 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 providing an embedded virtual machine in each of the peripheral devices
3 wherein the embedded virtual machine interfaces to the central device.

1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein at least one of the peripheral devices is
2 a multi-functional peripheral device whereby the central device configures the multi-
3 functional peripheral device to serve specific functions.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the central device comprises of logic in
2 a server connected to the network system.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 providing the users with collective and individual information and status of the
3 peripheral devices.

1 10. A network system controlling and managing resource usage comprised
2 of:
3 a central device;
4 one or more users; and
5 one or more peripheral devices, wherein the central device provides
6 information to the peripheral devices as to access by the users.

1 11. The network system of claim 10 wherein the central device accounts
2 for peripheral device usage of the users.

1 12. The network system of claim 10 wherein the peripheral devices
2 process documents.

1 13. The network system of claim 12 wherein the documents are given a
2 mark read by the peripheral devices and identified by the central device.

1 14. The network system of claim 13 wherein the documents are related to
2 users that request the documents.

1 15. The network system of claim 10 wherein the peripheral devices are
2 further comprised of an embedded virtual machine that interfaces to the central
3 device.

1 16. The network system of claim 15 wherein at least one of the peripheral
2 devices is a multi-functional peripheral device whereby the central device configures
3 the multi functional peripheral device to serve specific functions.

1 17. The network system of claim 10 wherein the central device comprises
2 control logic in a server connected to the network system.

1 18. The network system of claim 10 whereby users are provided collective
2 and individual information and status of the peripheral devices.

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